

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       A method for securing an access provider, the method comprising:  
2           monitoring communications with at least one access provider for a partially-  
3           completed connection transaction; and  
4           terminating the partially-completed connection transaction when the partially-  
5           completed connection transaction remains in existence for a period of time that exceeds a  
6           threshold period of time.
- 1           2.       The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises:  
2           detecting partially-completed connection transactions initiated by an access requestor;  
3           and  
4           measuring the period of time that a partially-completed connection transaction  
5           remains in existence.
- 1           3.       The method as in claim 2, wherein the monitoring further comprises  
2           comparing the period of time with the threshold period of time.
- 1           4.       The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting  
2           partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a  
3           connection transaction and the access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.
- 1           5.       The method as in claim 4, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting  
2           partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a  
3           connection transaction based on a return address that differs from an actual return address of  
4           the access requestor.
- 1           6.       The method as in claim 5, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting  
2           partially-completed connection transactions wherein the return address is an Internet protocol  
3           address that differs from the actual return address of the access requestor.
- 1           7.       The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring  
2           communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP communications for  
3           partially-completed connection transactions.

1           8.       The method as in claim 7, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring a  
2 process whereby an access requestor sends a SYN request and the at least one access  
3 provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.

1           9.       The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring  
2 communications with a plurality of access providers for partially-completed connection  
3 transactions.

1           10.      The method as in claim 1, wherein the terminating comprises resetting a  
2 communication port located on the at least one access provider.

1           11.      The method as in claim 1, wherein the threshold period of time is configurable  
2 such that the terminating comprises terminating the partially-completed connection  
3 transaction when the partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence for a  
4 period of time that exceeds a configurable threshold period of time.

1           12.      The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the  
2 access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed  
3 connection transactions between at least one client and at least one host.

1           13.      The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the  
2 access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed  
3 connection transactions between at least one client and a plurality of hosts.

1           14.      The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the  
2 access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed  
3 connection transactions between a plurality of clients and at least one host.

1           15.      A system for securing an access provider, comprising:  
2 means for monitoring communications with at least one access provider for a  
3 partially-completed connection transaction; and

4 means for terminating the partially-completed connection transaction when the  
5 partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence for a period of time that  
6 exceeds a threshold period of time.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises:  
2 means for detecting partially-completed connection transactions initiated by an access  
3 requestor;  
4 means for measuring the period of time that a partially-completed connection  
5 transaction remains in existence; and  
6 means for comparing the period of time with the threshold period of time.

1 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means  
2 for detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor  
3 initiates a connection transaction and the access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means  
2 for detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor  
3 initiates a connection transaction based on a return address that differs from an actual return  
4 address of the access requestor.

1 19. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means  
2 for monitoring communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP  
3 communications for partially-completed connection transactions whereby an access requestor  
4 sends a SYN request and the at least one access provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.

1 20. The system of claim 16, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access  
2 provider is a host such that the means for monitoring comprises means for detecting partially-  
3 completed connection transactions between at least one client and at least one host.

1 21. A system for securing an access provider, comprising:  
2 a monitoring component that is structured and arranged to monitor communications  
3 with at least one access provider for a partially-completed connection transaction; and

4 a terminating component that is structured and arranged to terminate the partially-  
5 completed connection transaction when the partially-completed connection transaction  
6 remains in existence for a period of time that exceeds a threshold period of time.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component comprises:  
2 a detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed  
3 connection transactions initiated by an access requestor; and  
4 a measuring component that is structured and arranged to measure the period of time  
5 that a partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the monitoring component further comprises  
2 a comparing component that is structured and arranged to compare the period of time with  
3 the threshold period of time.

1 24. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component comprises a  
2 detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection  
3 transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction and the  
4 access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the monitoring component comprises a  
2 detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection  
3 transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction based on a  
4 return address that differs from an actual return address of the access requestor.

1 26. The system of claim 25, wherein the monitoring component comprises a  
2 detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection  
3 transactions wherein the return address is an Internet protocol address that differs from the  
4 actual return address of the access requestor.

1 27. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component is structured and  
2 arranged to monitor communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP  
3 communications for partially-completed connection transactions.

1           28.     The system of claim 27, wherein the monitoring component is structured and  
2 arranged to monitor a process whereby an access requestor sends a SYN request and the at  
3 least one access provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.

1           29.     The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component is structured and  
2 arranged to monitor communications with a plurality of access providers for partially-  
3 completed connection transactions.

1           30.     The system of claim 21, wherein the terminating component comprises a reset  
2 component that is structured and arranged to reset a communication port located on the at  
3 least one access provider.

1           31.     The system of claim 21, wherein the threshold period of time is a configurable  
2 threshold period of time.

1           32.     The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access  
2 provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that  
3 is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between at  
4 least one client and at least one host.

1           33.     The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access  
2 provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that  
3 is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between at  
4 least one client and a plurality of hosts.

1           34.     The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access  
2 provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that  
3 is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between a  
4 plurality of clients and at least one host.

1           35.    The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component and the  
2   terminating component are included in a switch that receives communications from a host  
3   computer system.

1           36.    The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component and the  
2   terminating component are included in a host computer system that receives communications  
3   from a switch.